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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Miss Coke
Holkham.

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Norwich Nov: 10
1822.

My dear Miss Coke

I, immediately on the receipt of your kind letter, set about examining the Grecian Pine. It proves, as I expected & wished, the Pinus maritima, of which the only figure extant is an incomplete one, ~~only~~ partly coloured, in M. Lambert's splendid work on Pinus, p. 13. tab. 10. A very good drawing of it, in my hands, is destined for tab. 949 of the Flora Græca, whoever may live to see that work so near to its conclusion, the 3.^d vol. (or 300 plates) only being as yet published.

This tree, now called πεύκος (*Peſkos*), appears to be the πευκη (*Peukē*) of Dioscorides, & is said by Dr. Sibthorp to be in general use for ship-building, as well as for tar and

turpentine. It is the only kind
of Fir found in Cyprus, & occurs
every where in low dry sandy
ground in Greece; though, according
to my friend Hawkins, particularly
luxuriant in the plains of Elis!

I would not have you rely
too much on the confidential
taciturnity of your Rhododendron;
for as its journey will be in
winter, who knows but many
a harmonious accent may
freeze under its cold evergreen
leaves; so that when I come
to see it again, I may be
regaled, amid the gentle gales
of spring or summer, with
melting fragments of many
a greek epigram, in classic
English or Italian intermixed,
if I mistake not, with much
genuine unaffected sentiment,
in the plain language of truth.

All shall be sacred with me -
& indeed I do not want any
tell-tale Rhododendron to give
me a hint of the matter.

As to the ceremony of taking
leave, I feel as you do, and
like much better to look, to
the moment of meeting again.

How happy shall I be, my
dear friend, to see you in a
station so well suited to
your merit & talents, & which
I well know how much you
are capable of adorning!

Will you so far favour us as
to recall us to the recollection
of Mr. Stanhope, with our most
respectful compliments?

Believe me my dear Miss Coke
y^r. ever faithful & obliged

J R Smith.